

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A two-wheel drive/four-wheel drive mode shifting device for vehicles comprising:

a shifting unit provided on one power transmission mechanism provided, respectively, between an engine and front wheels and between the engine and rear wheels for connecting and disconnecting transmission of power in the power transmission mechanism;

a drive shaft connected to driving means;

a driven shaft fitted to the drive shaft with an annular clearance defined therebetween;

a plurality of engaging/disengaging members interposed in the clearance between the drive shaft and the driven shaft for connecting and disconnecting the drive shaft and the driven shaft by being engaged and disengaged with ~~these~~-opposed surfaces;

a shifting mechanism for selectively placing the engaging/disengaging members between the position to connect the drive shaft and the driven shaft and the position to disconnect the same;

~~and a casing for enclosing these components~~ the shifting unit, the drive shaft, the driven shaft, the plurality of engaging/disengaging members and the shifting mechanism;

wherein the casing is mounted on ~~the~~ a final decelerator connected to the driven shaft, a communicating section that brings the casing and the final decelerator into communication with each other, and an oil seal is provided on the opposite side of the driven shaft from the portion formed with a communicating section; and

an oil filter being formed at the communicating section between the casing and the final decelerator.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The two-wheel drive/four-wheel drive mode shifting device for vehicles according to claim 1, wherein the casing is mounted on the final decelerator along the substantially horizontal direction, and the communicating section is provided at two positions on the upper and the lower portions of the casing.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The two-wheel drive/four-wheel drive mode shifting device for vehicles according to claim 1, wherein an injection amount of a lubricant is preset so that the engaging/disengaging member at the lowest position out of the plurality of engaging/disengaging members is immersed in the lubricant injected into the final decelerator and the shifting unit.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The two-wheel drive/four-wheel drive mode shifting device for vehicles according to claim 3, wherein an injection amount of a lubricant is preset so that the engaging/disengaging member at the lowest position out of the plurality of engaging/disengaging members is immersed in the lubricant injected into the final decelerator and the shifting unit.

8. (Cancelled)